

REMARKS

The present application was filed on March 12, 2004 with claims 1-22. Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 17-19 are the independent claims.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-17, 19, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,197,045 (hereinafter "Amit") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,963,535 (hereinafter "Stark").

Claims 2, 4, 6, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Amit and Stark in view of other references.

In this response, Applicants traverse the §103(a) rejections. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application based on the amendments and remarks herein.

Applicants traverse the §103(a) rejections for the reasons set forth in their previous response dated October 29, 2008, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Notwithstanding the traversal, Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly set forth the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first and second split transmit and receive media access controllers have respective distinct addresses encoded by particular values of information bits sent over the interface, and further that the processor decodes said information bits so as to distinguish a first signal sent between the transmit and receive units of the first split transmit and receive media access controller from a second signal sent between the transmit and receive units of the second split transmit and receive media access controller.

Support for the amendment can be found in the specification. For example, the diagram of FIG. 6 illustrates the address decoding for distinguishing carrier sense signals sent between transmit and receive units of 32 different split transmit and receive MACs. See page 9, line 26, to page 10, line 7, and page 12, line 21, to page 13, line 2. As another example, FIG. 8 illustrates the address decoding for distinguishing deference reset signals sent between transmit and receive units of 16 different split transmit and receive MACs.

The recited interface is advantageous in that it allows numerous split transmit and receive MACs to communicate over a common interface in a particularly efficient and flexible manner. See the specification at, for example, page 17, lines 5-10. Such an arrangement and its associated

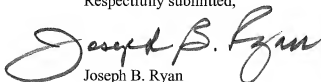
advantages are not provided by the proposed combination of the Amit and Stark references, or any of the other art of record.

Similar amendments have been made to the other independent claims 17-19.

Given the above traversal, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments made herein are not made for reasons relating to patentability over the cited references, but are instead made solely in order to expedite prosecution by clarifying the claimed subject matter. As indicated previously, the claims as previously presented were believed to define patentable subject matter over the proposed combination of Amit and Stark.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-22 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" being more prominent and the last name "Ryan" following in a similar style.

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